



*Lovely Strange Dark*

**MINATO MACHI NEKO MACHI**  
**"PORT TOWN CAT TOWN"**  
**BY NANAMAKI KANAKO**  
**CHAPTER 4**

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MINATO MACHI  
NEKO MACHI 4

# MS. KANO'S SLEEPING LOVER

Cats are  
creatures  
who love both  
solitude and  
freedom.



That's why  
the cats in this  
town call girls  
who are lonely  
themselves  
'witches'

and  
live  
with  
them.



But they're  
actually  
quite lonely  
creatures  
who need a  
warm place  
to call home.

sometimes  
appearing  
in the  
form of  
young  
boys.



MS. KANO'S  
ALWAYS AS  
BEAUTIFUL  
AS EVER.

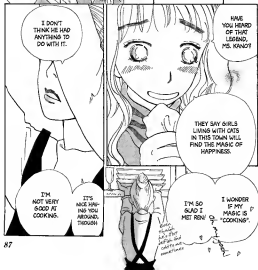
BUT  
I'LL HAVE  
SOMETHING  
ELSE TO LOOK  
FORWARD TO  
NEXT TIME  
I COME!

YES.

ARE YOU  
THE NEW  
COOK?

THAT WAS  
DELICIOUS!











I'D LOVE TO LET YOU STAY,

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY...

I HEAR

BUT RIGHT NOW MY BOSS IS A BIT...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH KATO?

THAT MY SUSUMURA KATO'S WAITING FOR ME!



OK!

THE WAVES  
**COME**  
**CRAAAASHING**  
**INTO THE PORT**  
AA BA-DA-DUM  
BA-DA-DUM



DON'T TELL ME...

WAS IT SOMETHING YOU SAID TO HER AGAIN?



WHAT IS THAT?

SHE ALWAYS SINGS THAT SONG WHEN SHE'S IN A BAD MOOD.

It sounds like a lullaby, doesn't it?

# 港町猫町







BUT THAT  
TOKYO PRINCESSES  
OPERA TROUPE? THE  
ONE THAT ALWAYS GETS  
AMAZING REVIEWS FOR  
THEIR BREATHTAKING  
PERFORMANCES?

OR  
SO THE  
STORY  
GOES.

Her imagination

ANY  
GIRL WOULD  
DIE FOR A  
CHANCE TO  
SEE THEM  
LIVE!

I'm sorry  
you don't  
understand.

THAT'S  
JUST WHAT  
I'VE HEARD!

YOU SEEM  
TO KNOW A  
LOT ABOUT  
THEM.

THAT  
WAS MS.  
KANO?

WHAT?  
SHE  
USED TO BE  
THE STAR OF  
THE TOKYO  
PRINCESSES  
OPERA  
TROUPE?

THAT'S  
WHAT  
WORRIES  
ME...

THE  
ONLY  
PICK GIRLS  
WITH A DEEP  
LONELINESS  
IN THEIR  
HEARTS.

AFTER  
SHE MET  
SHARA,  
THAT IS.

SHE WENT  
FROM BEING  
THE STAR OF  
THE TROUPE  
TO QUITTING  
AND MOVING  
TO THIS TOWN.

NOTHING  
BUT YOUR  
SONG CAN  
PUT MY  
HEART  
AT EASE!

AND  
NOTHING  
WILL EVER  
CHANGE  
THAT!

I LISTENED  
TO YOUR  
RECORDS  
UNTIL THEY  
WERE ALL  
WORN OUT.

I WENT  
TO SEE YOU  
ON THE STAGE  
EVERY DAY,  
SUGIMURA  
KANO.



YOU DIDN'T  
HAVE TO SAY  
ANYTHING IF  
YOU DON'T LIKE  
MY SINGING.

HOLD IT.



NOT JUST  
THE SONG, WHAT  
HAPPENED TO YOUR  
VOICE? IT USED TO  
BE SO MUCH MORE  
SPECTACULAR AND  
JOYOUS!

Verrible!



NOW I  
JUST RUN THIS  
SHABBY LITTLE  
HOTEL.



NO ONE  
PAYS ME TO SING  
ANYMORE.

AND YEAH,  
MAYBE  
THEY USED  
TO.

I  
COULDN'T  
SING EVEN IF  
I WANTED  
TO.

BUT  
I'M DONE  
WITH THAT  
NOW.











I DON'T UNDER-  
STAND IT.

I'M  
USELESS.

I'M A  
USELESS  
PERSON.

GAH!

SQUEEZE

I NEED A  
HUMANUS!

WHY AM I  
SO MEAN TO  
THE PEOPLE  
WHO TRY TO  
BE NICE  
TO ME!



SHARA.

I CAN'T  
DO ANY-  
THING.

I DON'T  
HAVE ANY  
SKILLS  
LIKE SONA.

AND NO  
ONE LIKES  
MY SING-  
ING ANY-  
MORE.

AM I  
REALLY



A WITCH?!

I'M  
HOMELESS!



LOVELY GIRLS  
CALLED WITCHES  
WHO LIVE WITH CATS  
ARE SUPPOSED TO  
FIND THE MAGIC OF  
HAPPINESS.

I OUGHT  
MYSELF CALLING  
MY OWN HOTEL A  
"SHABBY LITTLE  
HOTEL"...

TODAY,

BUT

I CAME  
HERE TO  
FIND A  
DIFFERENT  
LIFE,

YOU'RE  
ALWAYS HERE  
TO MAKE ME  
FEEL BETTER  
WITH YOUR  
FLUFFY FUR,

BUT I  
HAVEN'T TAKEN  
A SINGLE STEP  
FORWARD.



# PLATE

## BRING IT ON

RESEARCHER

[illegible]

SUGIMURA  
KANO!

858

WHERE  
ARE YOU  
GOING?  
WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?



IS THAT WHY YOU  
RAN AWAY TO THIS  
TOWN? BECAUSE OF  
YOUR BOYFRIEND?

WHAT?

WHAT?!



THE  
GANGSTER  
AGAIN?

DO YOU  
HAVE A  
BOYFRIEND  
HERE?!

DO YOU  
HAVE—



THAT'S  
RUDE OF  
YOU.

AND  
BESIDES,  
I DIDN'T  
"RUN AWAY".

DON'T TELL  
ME IT WAS  
BECAUSE OF  
SOMETHING  
STUPID LIKE  
THAT?!



YOU  
MIGHT BE  
RIGHT,

BUT I  
STILL—



ARE  
YOU SURE  
ABOUT  
THAT?

HE'S  
GETTING  
ON MY  
NERVES

AND EVER  
SINCE MOVING  
HERE, YOU HAVEN'T  
TAKEN A SINGLE  
JOB.

DON'T  
YOU LEAVE THE  
TOWN? BECAUSE  
THEY DIDN'T NEED  
YOU ANYMORE?



HEY REN,

LEMME  
GO FIRST!

SHARA  
?!

IN YOUR  
DREAMS!

Eek...??

WHAT'S  
ALL THAT  
NOISE?!

WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON..?





SHALL...

WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?



KANO?

WHY ARE  
ALL THE  
RATS...



AAH

WELL,  
THERE  
THEY  
GO.



SINCE  
ALL OF US  
CATS CAME  
TO LIVE  
IN THIS  
TOWN.

THE  
RATS ALL  
RAN UP TO  
LIVE IN THE  
MOUNTAIN.

A  
LONG  
TIME  
AGO.

THE  
MOUNTAIN.



I'VE NEVER  
SEEN A RAT  
IN THIS  
TOWN.

WHERE  
DID THEY  
ALL COME  
FROM?



THEY'RE  
ALWAYS  
UP  
THERE IN THE  
MOUNTAIN.



NO WAY!

SO DO YOU EAT THEM?

IT TAKES ALL OUR ENERGY JUST CHASING THEM!



WHY?

WHY?

I DUNNO.



SO THEY ALL RUN DOWN GOING  
FWOOOSH  
AND JUMP INTO THE OCEAN. THAT'S WHAT WE MEAN WHEN WE SAY "THE RATS ARE COMING."

SO MANY THEY ALL GO AHH I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!



BUT THERE WIND UP BEING WAY TOO MANY OF THEM.

SO IN A COUPLE YEARS THE MOUNTAIN GETS ALL FULL OF RATS.



TAKE A LOOK!

FWOOOSH

THE SUN'S GOING TO RISE SOON.



DID ALL THOSE RATS DROWN?

All those rats running down from the mountain.

It's almost 230,000.

OF COURSE NOT!

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

Splash

Splash

flap

AH!





ARE  
THOSE

FISH WITH  
WINGS

THEY'RE  
CALLED  
FLYING  
FISH

FWOOOSH





KANGOT



GUESS IT'S  
TIME TO  
GO BACK  
TO SORA.

IT'S  
OVER.

I'M  
HAPPY



SHARA

THOSE  
RATS WERE SO  
BEAUTIFUL.

YEAH?

I KNOW

I knew it.

This town  
really is  
magical.

It's like  
they were  
telling me.  
You'll be  
fine."







